CLASSIFICATION SLOREN/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIAL OWLY INTELLOFAX 21 Approved For Release 2001/03/09 06 A RD 82-0045 78 00 56 00 3.0 information report CD NO. CONFIDENTIAL 22 AUG COUNTRY Philippines DATE DISTR SUBJECT Ability of Philippine Government to Muster NO. OF PAGES 1 60,000 Troops From Former Scouts and Guerrillas PLACE NO. OF ENCLS. ACQUIRED 25X1A DATE OF SUPPLEMENT TO INFO. 25X1X REPORT NO.

During discussions in Congress of the cuestion of sending Philippine troops to Korea to serve with United Nations forces, it was revealed that the Government of the Philippines is capable of mustering as many as 60,000 troops, drawn principally from the ranks of former Philippine Scouts and former wartime guerrillas.

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Comment. The claim that the Philippines should refrain from outright military assistance to the United Nations in order to devote every effort to restoring domestic order does not refer to these 60,000 troops. They could not be used for anti-dissident operations in any case, since the Government is now unable to increase the scope of its repressive campaign.

Many of these men are now unemployed or scarcely are able to eke out a living. They would thus seize the opportunity of again becoming affiliated with the US armed forces. This derives from an assumption current in the Philippines that troops sent to Korea would be made part of the US armed forces and would be financed by the US on a standard equal to that of US troops.

If Philippine troops were to be made part of the US forces, the move would have a tremendous effect on the national economy by raising the standard of living substantially and by alleviating the cute unemployment problem. Of these former scouts and guerrillas, the prevailing attitude is a complete nonchalance typical of the professional soldier. These men thus would not cavil at the possibility of death on foreign soil if there is an immediate promise of improvement in their economic condition.

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